



A Statistical Profile of Older Asians

INTRODUCTION

In 2012, there were 43.1 million Americans aged 65 and over and 5.9 million aged 85 and over. Over the next 50 years, the number of people aged 65 and older is expected to more than double to 92 million and the number of people aged 85 and older is expected to triple to 18 million. Among the population age 65 and over, there are 129 women for every 100 men. At age 85 and over this ratio increases to 200 women for every 100 men.

NOW AND THE FUTURE

The non-Hispanic Asian older population was 1.6 million in 2012 and is projected to grow to 7.1 million by 2060. In 2012, older Asian persons made up 4 percent of the older population. By 2060, the percentage of the older population that is Asian is projected to be 8 percent.

CENTENARIANS

In 2012, there were 2,076 Asians age 100 years and over (604 men and 1,472 women). They comprised 3 percent of all centenarians.

RESIDENCE

In 2012, over 60 percent (984,204) of older Asians lived in just four states: California (634,694), New York (149,382), Hawaii (119,973), and Texas (80,155).

EDUCATIONAL LEVEL

The past decade has seen a significant increase in educational attainment among older Americans, including Asians. In 2013, 76 percent of the Asian population aged 65 and older had finished high school and almost 36 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. In 1998, 65 percent of Asian elderly had finished high school and 22 percent had a bachelor's degree or higher. Interestingly, the percentage of older Asians in 2013 who had a bachelor's degree or higher (36 percent) was higher than for the overall older population (25 percent).

MARITAL STATUS

In 2013, 67 percent of older Asian Americans were married, 24 percent were widowed, 6 percent were divorced, and 4 percent had never been married.

INCOME AND POVERTY

Households containing families headed by Asian persons aged 65 and over reported a median income in 2012 of \$56,378. The comparable figure for all older households was \$48,957. The median personal income for older Asian men was \$21,400 and \$13,189 for older Asian women. The comparable figures for all older persons were \$27,612 for men and \$16,040 for women. The poverty rate in 2012 for Asian persons age 65 and over was 12.3 percent while the rate for all older Americans was 9.1 percent.

SELF-RATED HEALTH STATUS

During 2010-2012, 70 percent of older Asian men and 69 percent of older Asian women reported good, very good, or excellent health. Among older non-Hispanic whites, this figure was 78 percent for men and 80 percent for women. Positive health evaluations decline with age. Among Asian men ages 65-74, 79 percent reported good, very good, or excellent health, compared with 48 percent among those aged 85 or older. Similarly, among Asian women, this rate declined from 75 percent at ages 65-74 to 45 percent at age 85 or older.

CHRONIC CONDITIONS

Most older persons have at least one chronic condition and many have multiple conditions. Some of the most frequently occurring conditions among older Asians in 2010-2012 were: diagnosed arthritis (37 percent), all types of heart disease (24 percent), and cancer (13 percent). The comparable figures for all older persons were: diagnosed arthritis (50 percent), all types of heart disease (30 percent), and cancer (24 percent).

ACCESS TO MEDICAL CARE

In 2012, 31 percent of older Asians had both Medicare and supplementary private health insurance and 21 percent were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. In comparison, 50 percent of all older adults had both Medicare and supplementary private health insurance and 8 percent were covered by both Medicare and Medicaid. In 2010-2012, 5 percent of older Asians reported they had no usual source of health care compared with 4 percent of all older Americans.

PARTICIPATION IN OLDER AMERICAN ACT (OAA) PROGRAMS

In 2011, State and Area Agencies on Aging provided services to a total of 11 million persons aged 60 and older. Consistent with the targeting requirements of the OAA, state and area agencies on aging placed considerable emphasis on services to persons with the greatest social and economic need, including members of racial and ethnic minority groups, especially those who are poor. Among the older persons who received Title III OAA home and community-based registered services, 3 percent were Asian.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT ACL

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